

State Injury Indicators



Percentage of High School Students Who Actually Attempted Suicide

Category:	Suicide Indicators
Demographic Group:	Students in grades 9–12.
Numerator:	Respondents in grades 9–12 who reported actually attempting suicide in the past 12 months.
Denominator:	Total respondents in grades 9–12.
Measures of Frequency:	Annual prevalence.
Period for Case Definition:	Previous 12 months.
Background:	Suicide is the third leading cause of death in young adults aged 15–24.* For every death in this age group, there are 100–200 suicide attempts.**
Limitations of Indicator:	Self-reported data only represents a small portion of the overall burden of injury. An evaluation of only these injuries may not present an accurate picture of all injuries.
Data Resources:	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).
Limitations of Data Resources:	As with all self-reported sample surveys, YRBSS data might be subject to systematic error resulting from noncoverage (e.g., no participation by certain schools), nonresponse (e.g., refusal to participate in the survey or to answer specific questions), or measurement (e.g., social desirability or recall bias).
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	18-2: Reduce the rate of suicide attempts by adolescents
CDC's Health Protection Goals:	Healthy People in Every Stage of Life: Achieve Healthy Independence

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2008 Jul 28]. Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. **Goldsmith SK, Pellmar TC, Kleinman AM, Bunney WE, eds. Reducing suicide: a national imperative. Washington (DC): National Academy Press; 2002. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars